diplomatic means under the auspices of the UN. India recognised the validity of the unanimous decision of the United Nations Security Council in its Resolution 1441 which provides for the disarmament of Iraq. Iraq has to faithfully comply with the provisions of relevant UN Security Resolutions. The work of the inspectors is continuing in Iraq, and UNMOVIC and IAEA have submitted two reports to the Security Council on 27 January and 14 February. The Security Council should decide on what further action needs to be taken. All concerned should fully cooperate in finding a peaceful resolution to the issue. India's position on the issue has been made known to the USA and UK.

(c) and (d) Over 60% of India's crude oil imports are sourced from the Gulf. India has not been lifting any crude oil directly from Iraq since December 2000. Iraq is also currently producing only about 3% of global oil production. It is expected that any disruption of Iraqi oil production, can be made up by other producers. While oil prices may rise in the short term, India has adequate foreign exchange reserves to meet a higher oil import bill.

India's exports to Iraq in 2001-2002 were valued at $206 million. Exports to Iraq in the pipeline would be disrupted in the event of war, but can be resumed once the war is over.

Functioning of ESI Scheme

280. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Review Committee constituted to study functioning of the ESI Scheme has recommended for increasing the ceiling from the existing Rs. 6,500 to Rs. 9,000 for availing ESI Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the criteria adopted by Government so as to enable the employees to avail ESI Scheme; and

(d) the number of employees covered under this scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M.C. Verma to review the

working of the ESI Scheme. The Committee in its report submitted to the Government has recommended that the wage ceiling for coverage of the workers should be extended from present Rs. 6500/- per month to Rs. 9000/- per month as per the consumer price index and a provision to be made for automatic adjustment every year.

(c) The ESI Act applies to factories using power and employing ten or more persons and non-power using factories and certain specified establishment employing twenty or more persons. Workers employed in factories and establishments covered under the Scheme and drawing wages upto Rs. 6500/- per month are presently covered under the Scheme. The Scheme provides medical care to the workers and their family members and cash benefits to the Insured workers in the contingencies of sickness, maternity and disablement & death due to employment injury subject to fulfillment of eligibility conditions.

(d) A Statement indicating the number of employees covered under the Scheme, State-wise as on 31.3.2002 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

No. of employees as on 31.3.2002

S.No.	State/Area	No. of employees in implemented areas
1.	A.P. & Yanam	502400
2.	Assam & Meghalaya	31400
3.	Bihar	29850
4.	Chandigarh	30100
5.	Chattisgarh	29250
6.	Delhi	494000
7.	Goa	73150
8.	Gujarat	440350
9.	Haryana	349350
10.	Himachal Pradesh	39350
11.	J & K	14700

S.No.	State/Area	No. of employees in implemented areas
12.	Jharkhand	56500
13.	Karnataka	628000
14.	Kerala & Mahe	333550
15.	Madhya Pradesh	237100
16.	Maharashtra	1037550
17.	Orissa	114300
18.	Pondicherry	52300
19.	Punjab	371150
20.	Rajasthan	248850
21.	Tamil Nadu	1063350
22.	Uttar Pradesh	429650
23.	Uttaranchal	17900
24.	West Bengal	535250
	ALL INDIA	7159350

Commission for social dimension of globalization

281. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that International Labour Organization (ILO) has decided to set up a Commission to consider the social dimension of globalization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country would also be represented on the Commission and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether recommendations of the proposed Commission would be binding on the member countries of the ILO; and

(e) if not, the practical utility of the report?